service cases specially with regard to promotion and seniority etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government amends service rules including those relating to promotion and seniority whenever and wherever necessary.

Eighth Antarctica Expedition

2171. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would undertake eighth Indian expedition to Antarctica;

(b) if so, what are the details of exploration and studies to be conducted by Indian team in its eighth expedition;

(c) whether Government has exchange of knowledge and know how with the teams of otrer countries leading to expedition to Antarctica for mutual benefits; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such exchange of knowledge and know how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scientific work proposed to be carried out during the eighth expedition is of considerable importance in the light of the signing of mineral regime on Antarctica. Studies include geological, geophysical, geomagnetic, meteorological, upper atmospheric, ozone depletion and oceanographic aspects. Construction the second station at Maitri will also be undertaken.

(c) and (d) The data and information collected during the expeditions are fully used by the various participating institutions in the country. These are also exchanged with the other countries which are the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties. The knowledge and experience gained during the previous expeditions have enabled India to contribute substantially in all the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty including the Minerals Regime which was adopted on 2nd June, 1988.

Use of the Delicate Strands of Algae

2172. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of the delicate strands of Algae commonly found floating in ponds and lakes in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is in the notice of Government that US Scientists are working on a certain group of Algae which produces large amounts of lipids which can be extracted and used to make diesel oil and petrol;

(d) if so, whether any experiments are being conducted in India to tap the potential of Algae as a source of diesel and petrol; and

(e) if so, whether and the stage at which the matter stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Some research work was done at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI)

—a constituent laboratory of CSIR to explore the possibility of using Botroyococcus Braunii, a green alga rich in hydrocarbons, as an alternative renewable source of energy. However, the results indicated that cultivation of this Alga on a large scale for the production of Biomass and hydrocarbon was not economically viable.

(c) US Scientists are reported to have been working on Botroyococcus Braunii since 1970.

(d) and (e) Only laboratory level experiments have been done.

Funds for contesting elections

2173. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether raising of funds for contesting elections, has been considered as a source of generation of black money;

(b) whether Government have received any suggestions from certain quarters for making electioning process less costly, publishing the audited accounts of political parties, public funding of elections and putting a ceiling on party expenditure on elections, if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) It will be an over simplification to suggest that the source of money used in contesting elections is unaccounted wealth or black money as it is commonly referred to. One of the important measures brought into force by Government in this respect is to permit the companies to make donations to political parties subject to certain conditions.

The Election Commission has expressed concern over flow of money in elections which vitiate the sanctity and purity of the electoral process. To combat the evil of money power in elections, the Commission has made some proposals as part of the wider topic of reforms of the electoral system. The Election Commission has suggested that the election law should be amended:

(1) to define political parties; and

(2) to empower the Election Commission to make regulations to deal with matters relating to the political parties such as—

(i) compulsory registration of political parties;

(ii) compulsory maintenance of accounts and minutes etc.;

(iii) compulsory audit of account of political parties by an agency to be named by the Commission;

(iv) submission of periodical reports to the Commission; and

(v) connected matters.

There is another proposal of the Commission for State funding of Election expenses incurred by the candidate. All these proposals are under consideration of the Government.

Decline in Share of the Farming Sector during 1950-51 and 1985-86

2174. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of the Farming Sector in Total Domestic Production fell down to about 35 per cent in 1985-86 from about 57 per cent in 1950-51; if so, the reasons therefor and also the specific aspects of planning over the period which led to this fall;